

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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PRETORIA FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT ZA
SUBJ: CHONA ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

1. PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL MAINZA CHONA HAS ADVISED THE THREE CANDIDATES SEEKING TO CHALLENGE PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO RUN FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE SEATS RATHER THAN THE PRESIDENCY. SPEAKING AT TWO RALLIES IN THE COPPERBELT CITY OF KITWE AUGUST 16, CHONA SAID THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL COUNCIL HAD ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR THAT KAUNDA WILL BE UNIP'S SOLE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS. ATTACKING THE WOULD-BE CANDIDATES FOR FORMING THEIR OWN PARTIES WITHIN UNIP, THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THE THREE MEN WERE MAKING A MOCKERY OF ZAMBIAN DEMOCRACY WHICH HAD ALLOWED "THE LOST SHEEP INTO THE FOLD."

2. STATING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE SILENT MAJORITY, MR. CHONA URGED ALL ZAMBians TO UNITE BEHIND PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND REJECT TRIBALISM IN POLITICS. CHONA SAID THAT PEOPLE FROM THE SAME TRIBES AS SOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SHOULD MAKE THEIR POSITION CLEAR AND

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"REJECT THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO TARNISH THEIR TRIBES." USING HIMSELF AS AN EXAMPLE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS A TONGA HE FULLY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND NOT HIS FELLOW TRIBESMAN NKUMBULA.

3. COMMENT: HONA'S REMARKS REFLECT AN INCREASING TENDENCY AMONG KAUNDA'S SUPPORTERS IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP TO CONDEMN

TRIBALISM BY THEMSELVES RAISING THE SPECTRE OF TRIBALISM.
THE TWO MAJOR OPPONENTS ARE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BY THE ZAMBIAN
PUBLIC WITH SPECIFIC TRIBAL GROUPS--KAPWEPWE WITH THE BEMBA
AND NKUMBULA WITH THE TONGA--AND BOTH OBVIOUSLY NEED TO SHAKE
THAT IMAGE TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF SUCCESS. THE PARTY LEADERS
ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO SEE THAT THE IMAGE IS MAINTAINED.

CLINGERMAN

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Message Attributes

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